

Serial No. : 10/772,499
Filed : February 5, 2004

REMARKS

In the office action, the examiner rejected claims 1-2, 8, 10, 12, 16-17, 23, 25 and 27 under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Campbell (U.S. Patent No. 7,076,505) in view of Yokota (U.S. Application Publication No. 2002/0065605). The examiner rejected claims 9, 11, 24 and 26 under 103(a) as being unpatentable over Campbell (U.S. Patent No. 7,076,505) and Yokota (U.S. Application Publication No. 2002/0065605) further in view of Hanon et al. (U.S. Application Publication No. 2003/0231208). The examiner indicated that Claims 3-7, 13-15, 18-22 and 28-30 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, the applicant has amended the claims to more clearly differentiate the present invention from the technology disclosed by the cited references. In the amendment, the applicant has added all of the limitations of Claim 3 to Claim 1, and the applicant has also added all of the limitations of Claim 18 to Claim 15. As noted above, the examiner indicates that Claim 3 and 18 would be allowable over the prior art. Accordingly, the applicant believes that Claims 1 and 16, as amended, are now patentable over the prior art. To be consistent with Claims 1 and 16, the applicant has canceled Claims 3 and 18.

In this opportunity, the applicant has amended the specification to correct minor typographical and grammatical errors

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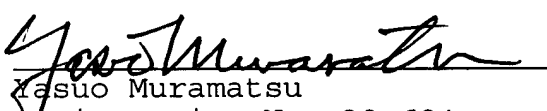
therein. This is to verify that no new matter has been introduced by this amendment.

Under the circumstances, the applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance, and the applicant respectfully requests that the present application be allowed and passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

MURAMATSU & ASSOCIATES

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By: 
Yasuo Muramatsu
Registration No. 38,684
114 Pacifica, Suite 310
Irvine, CA 92618
(949) 753-1127

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